

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## "Living Water" proves love still exists

By Eric Miller

BOQUEIRAO DOS COCHOS, Brazil (BP) — The mayor cried each time he attended the funeral of a child from his town who had starved to death. But he could do little.

A deadly drought had settled in northeastern Brazil.

Djaci Farias Brasileiro is a doctor as well as the mayor of this community of farmers. Before the drought, local people farmed during the four months of rain each year. When the drought came, few crops grew and families had little food or money.

A federal tanker truck brought water each week and drew long lines of thirsty people. The few who had money bought staples from a mobile store that also came once a week.

### "Breaking the hunger cycle..."

This was the situation when Southern Baptist missionaries found the people suffering through a five-year drought in the early 1980s. The missionaries and Brazilian Baptists came to their rescue with a \$3 million hunger-relief effort known as the Living Water Project.

The project is one of the largest-hunger relief efforts ever undertaken by Southern Baptists. It encompasses 14 counties in Brazil, three Baptist outreach centers, dentists, nurses, a doctor, three factories, urban water systems, irrigation systems, a model farm, school gardens, agricultural technicians, and radio broadcasts. Numerous Brazilian Baptist home missionaries and Southern Baptist missionaries have played major roles.

Overall funding of the five-year project is scheduled to end in January. But parts of the work, such as irrigation, may get continued funding from Southern Baptists. Revenue from the project's factories will support the outreach centers. Funds and assistance also have come from Brazilian Baptist churches, their National Mission Board and the Brazilian government.

Breaking the hunger cycle has been the main purpose of this effort, says Southern Baptist missionary Ed Trott, who is about to retire after completing his work as project director. It also is improving the economy of an area populated by 150,000 people and changing many of their lives spiritually.

Brick and furniture factories and a model farm have put people to work.

Agricultural technicians have improved farming methods and led Bible studies. Nurses and a doctor are reducing infant mortality. People are taking courses in sewing, cooking, typing and crafts. The gospel is penetrating remote areas, and churches

are starting, missionaries report.

"Things are different now," says Trott, who is from Vinita, Okla. Mrs. Trott is from Meridian, Miss. (Trott formerly served the MBCB's Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department as missionary-in-residence.)

Before the project came, some families in the area settled disputes with guns. A murder per day occurred in the project headquarters of Itaporanga, a town of 10,000 people. The last murder was six months ago.

"I think the gospel has its influence on the way people act," Trott says. "A chief of police told me, 'I just can't believe what's happened here.'"

The irrigation systems pump water from an artificial lake, built by the Brazilian government, to dozens of farms near Mayor Brasileiro's town, keeping fields green with crops year-round in the drought-prone part of Brazil. Project workers have improved farming methods and boosted yields.

They plan to start a guava-processing factory in Boqueirao dos Cochos. "People say that the gifts that came from the Baptists would fall from the heavens to the city," the mayor says. "The gifts were so good that they never expected anything like

this from any people here on earth — that people were not able to do such things, only God."

Only one town in the 14-county region had a permanent water system

### "The gospel is penetrating remote areas."

before the project began. Now all do. More than 60 farms are irrigated.

Farmers pool their money to form irrigation associations and maintain equipment.

Others living outside of towns are thankful for the project, too. Joventino Angelo Cavalcante, 48, and his wife, Ana, live in the mountains by a dirt road in a house made of sticks and mud. They have 12 children.

"We had a very difficult time from 1983 to 1986," says Cavalcante, a farmer who never attended school. Before the project, his family lived off of beans, rice, and corn.

Cavalcante's neighbor, Terezinha Silva, says welfare funds once were her family's only income: "We almost starved. We would sell a little rice and

corn and just barely get by."

Project agricultural technicians showed their rural community how to irrigate and grow 14 vegetables. Thousands of students are eating better and learning nutrition. Project workers enlisted schools to plant gardens to put extra vegetables on school lunch plates.

Missionaries say starting the project in an area with a longstanding Catholic heritage, where people prayed to a dead Catholic priest, was difficult. "The people were very prejudiced against evangelicals," Trott recalls. A group tried to oust a Brazilian Baptist missionary from Itaporanga in the early 1980s. (A volunteer group from First Church, Boyle, led by pastor Joe Anderson, recently returned from Itaporanga.)

Some Catholics called the Baptists "goats," adds missionary Bruce Oliver. One priest publicly opposed the project and warned people not to "sell your souls" to "those communists." The priest asked government officials not to cooperate with project workers.

But soon people saw the project's benefits and told the missionaries, "Please forgive our priest." He later left town. Recently another priest praised the project and invited a col-

league to see it.

Before the project started, only one Baptist church and two small mission congregations existed in the area. Now churches and missions exist in nine cities and smaller "preaching points" are in nine rural areas.

A key church planter in the project is Brazilian Baptist home missionary Cirenio Refosco. Visiting congregations and preaching, he drives 3,000 miles some months, mostly on dirt roads.

### "The gifts were so good that they never expected anything like this."

Refosco hands out tracts and preaches the gospel to everyone he meets. He has led 300 people to faith in Christ and baptized 165 during the three years since he joined the project. A seminary graduate, he trains lay preachers. He even does construction, painting and wiring of new churches, sometimes working from dawn until night.

His wife, pediatrician Regina Refosco, treats between 30 and 40 patients one day per week at the Baptist Outreach Center in Itaporanga. She also gives tracts to patients and says, "God has a plan for your life."

The Baptist centers provide not only healing for the sick but training for Christian workers. Maria Miguel, 20, is taking seminary extension courses taught by missionary Margaret Oliver of Bay City, Texas. "The harvest is so great," Miguel says, "and the laborers are few. I need to prepare to do God's work."

Other services of the Baptist centers include food distribution, home repairs, dental work for the poor, classes, Bible studies and social work.

One slum resident sews clothes for her eight children using machines at the center.

Suyene Carvalho, director of the Baptist center in Conceicao, works with people who live in slum houses where pigs roam freely inside. Their families eat on the floor, and unclothed children get parasitic worms while their physical and mental development suffers from poor nutrition. The families have been exploited as laborers and receive little pay, she says.

"This town needs to come to believe that love still exists," Carvalho said. "We Baptists give with one hand, but we don't come to take back something with the other. We support with the other hand."

Many of the people in 14 forgotten counties of northeastern Brazil know that now.

Eric Miller writes for FMB.



Jesus Christ met a woman at a well and told her about "living water" that brings eternal life. Southern Baptist missionary Albert Sutton (standing, center) and an agricultural technician meet with farm families at a well in a drought-stricken area

of Brazil to show them better farming methods and share the gospel. It's all part of a \$3 million Southern Baptist hunger relief project called "Living Water" which has introduced irrigation to farmers in the region. (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## A new year is here

A bright new year is stretched out ahead of us, and we must purpose to do the very best that we can with it.

It seems that at the end of an old year we are always disappointed for some reason with how we have handled it. As we move through this year, let us determine that at its close we will be contented with how we have lived through it.

The only way to be sure that will be the case is to stay in close communication with the Lord as we live from day to day.

That is what we should be doing all of the time anyway, new year or not. New Year's Day is just another day, but we have given it special significance because it is the first day of a new year. Every day is just

another day; but if we are to be satisfied at the close of this year with our handling of all of the days in it, we will have to live each day with that goal in mind.

Symbolically, the new year has given us a clean slate on which to chart our lives. Let's make 1989 the best year possible.

## The real Camelot

King Arthur's Camelot was supposed to have become the acme of idyllic happiness, the pinnacle of success. Before its advantages could be realized and brought to fruition, the concept began to fall apart because of internal problems. The dream was never realized.

King Arthur's round table, his court, and Camelot were products of a poet's pen; but, in reality, those circumstances are all too common in real life.

Perhaps that is the way it is with Southern Baptists. Not too many years ago Southern Baptists had the missions operation that was the model for every other group in the world. We had planned to use this operation to make a gospel witness available to

everyone in the world by the year 2000.

Our dream began to unravel from within, and now we are torn between two camps on the extreme edges of Southern Baptist life.

Camelot almost became a reality with us. Everything was going very well. We were strong. We were having a tremendous impact on the world. Had we become a bit proud? Were we a bit haughty?

Perhaps. But we were effective. The world was hearing the gospel borne on Southern Baptist wings.

Then the foundation began to crumble. Strangely enough, the great mass of Southern Baptists were not a part of either of the camps that began to emerge; but that didn't matter. The structure was damaged from within,

and the foundation began to crack anyway.

Camelot was within our grasp. We missed it.

Maybe the problem came because we were building our Camelot. Maybe our organizations were carrying us along. Maybe we didn't pay enough attention to the King's leadership. That is what happened to the legendary Camelot. It was not King Arthur who caused the demise of his dream. The fault belonged to those about him who failed to follow his leadership.

What can we do? Ninety-nine percent of Southern Baptists are ready, willing and anxious to put the trauma behind us and begin to put our dream back together again.

The ninety-nine percent could do it,



but many of the leaders are in one or the other of the two camps.

But we have the Lord, and we have a great host of Southern Baptists, including those in the two camps, who are willing to follow him and get back to our work. And new leaders will be

called out to help us find our direction again.

The starting place is missions. That is the reason for our being. There is where the interests lie of the ninety-nine percent.

That is the real Camelot.

## Guest opinion . . .

### Women in the New Testament

By Ronald E. Bishop

Few issues receive as much attention today in Christian circles as that of the role of women in the church. Proof texts may be found that seem to support enforced silence and subjection of women. Other proof texts allow for women to take a more active role in worship and ministry. One passage that has prompted much discussion is I Tim. 3:11. One writer wrote recently in *The Baptist Record* that the passage refers to the wives of deacons rather than women leaders in the church. The purpose of this article is to analyze the usage of the Greek word *gune* in the New Testament.

The word *gune* and its derivatives are used and translated in at least three ways in the New Testament. The word often is used alone and generally is translated "woman." This usage occurs frequently in the Gospels, as in Mt. 9:20. There *gune* describes a woman with a chronic hemorrhage. We only know that she was a woman, not that she was married. The best translation of *gune* in this instance is "woman." Similar usage is found in Mt. 13:33; 15:22; and 26:7. *Gune* occurs several times in Acts in the context of "men and women," with no marital relationship implied. Many other usages are found in which *gune* is translated best as "woman."

*Gune* also is used often in the New Testament to indicate "wife." Such usage include Mt. 1:20; 5:31-32; 14:3;

18:25; Mk. 10:2; Lu. 17:32; and Acts 5:1. In most of these instances, the context requires a translation of "wife," for a marital relationship is implied. One characteristic of this usage is the presence of a possessive pronoun or prepositional phrase (his wife, wife of Philip, wife of his brother). Though not present in every usage translated "wife," the possessive usually suggests that "wife" is the best translation. The context demands this translation in many cases.

*Gune* also is used to indicate what seems to have been a group of women leaders in the early church. In two passages in Acts, the word seems to suggest a definite group of women of high regard. Acts 1:14 records that the apostles devoted themselves to prayer, together with "the women (KJV)." In Acts 17:4, reference is made to "leading women" of Thessalonica who believed. In I Tim. 3:11, the derivative of *gune* stands alone, having no possessive. If *gunaikas* is translated "their wives," referring to the deacons mentioned previously, one would expect a possessive (their) or a prepositional phrase (of deacons), neither of which is present.

Perhaps the more natural translation in this verse is "women" or "the women." The assertion is correct that the word *gune* should not be

translated "deaconess." The word for deaconess is *diakonon* and is found in Rom. 16:1. Yet if *gune* is translated "women," as in other instances where the possessive is absent, I Tim. 3:11 may refer to someone other than deacon's wives. The possibility is real that the verse refers to the wives of the deacons. It also may refer to a third group of leaders, composed of women, whose work complemented the work of the bishops and deacons.

Ronald E. Bishop is pastor of Salem Church, Collins.

### SBC survey profiles religious readers

NASHVILLE (BP) — Sixty-nine percent of adult Southern Baptists are readers of religious books, according to a survey sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's research services department.

In a scientific survey of 1,072 adult Southern Baptists, 34 percent said they read religious books sometimes; 17 percent, fairly frequently; and 18 percent, regularly.

Frequent and regular readers of religious books are more likely to at-

## Baptist beliefs . . .

### The Holy Spirit and Jesus

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee" — Luke 4:14. This verse suggests the vital relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

In his virgin birth, Jesus was conceived by the power of the Spirit (Luke 1:35). The Spirit anointed Jesus at his baptism and came upon him in fulness of power (Luke 3:22; note that Jesus never performed a miracle until after this event). He led Jesus into the wilderness and was with him throughout the wilderness temptations (Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1).

Jesus began and continued his ministry in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14). He based his messiahship

upon the anointing of the Spirit" (Luke 4:16-21). He went to the cross "through the eternal Spirit" (Heb. 9:14). He was raised from the dead through "the spirit [Spirit] of holiness" (Rom. 1:4). And Jesus promised that his work would continue through the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). He propagates the redemption which the Father proposed and the Son provided.

Regarding the Spirit's teaching ministry, Jesus said, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now . . . He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (John 16:12, 14).

The Holy Spirit does not reveal himself. This is the reason why we understand God the Father and God the Son better than we understand God the Holy Spirit. The Spirit points away from himself to Jesus. Thus we may conclude that any system of religion or theology which magnifies the Holy Spirit above Jesus is not of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:1). For "He shall glorify me" (John 14:14)!

Herschel H. Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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# FMB to seek funding relief for missions

By Bob Stanley  
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Hit by the one-two punch of decreased income at home and a weaker U.S. dollar overseas, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted Dec. 14

to send its trustee chairman to Nashville to inform Southern Baptist Convention budget decision-makers of the urgency of its financial needs. The board unanimously approved a motion by Trustee Paige Patterson

that asks Chairman Mark Corts to accompany President R. Keith Parks and Vice President for Finance Carl Johnson to the January meeting of the SBC Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee, when SBC

agencies will present their needs for the 1989-90 budget year.

The subcommittee makes its recommendations in February to the full Executive Committee, which in turn sends the budget to messengers to the convention's annual meeting for final approval.

Patterson said he thinks the board must make the Executive Committee aware of the "strategic time we're in right now" in global evangelism and to "state particularly the critical nature of the (financial) need at this moment."

Earlier in the meeting, Johnson told the trustees that if the exchange rate of the Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar went down from its present rate of 122 yen to the dollar to a rate of 100 to the dollar, as proposed by some economic advisers to President-elect George

Bush, the Foreign Mission Board would have to spend an additional \$1 million a year just to pay for the Japan missionaries' cost-of-living increases. Similar cost increases would occur in other countries if the dollar weakens further.

While a weak dollar helps U.S. exports, it hurts those who depend upon the dollar for their living and work expenses overseas, Johnson said.

The falling dollar has hit foreign missions at the same time income has dwindled from its two major funding sources, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program unified budget Johnson said.

Cooperative Program receipts for October and November, the first two months of the 1988-89 fiscal year, are 2.45 percent below last year.

The strong expression of budget concern came during an otherwise upbeat meeting in which trustees affirmed the FMB president, staff and missionaries and their approach to missions in a six-point "resolution of commitment"; approved Hungary as the 114th country where Southern Baptist overseas personnel are stationed; appointed 31 new missionaries; and applauded SBC President Jerry Vines in his first address to the board.

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., said he had a "real special experience" attending the missionary appointment service Dec. 13 and visiting the Missionary Learning Center at Rockville, Va. He said he felt he had come to the "very heart of what Southern Baptists are all about — winning people to Jesus Christ."

Approval to open work in Hungary came with the transfer of two veteran missionaries to Spain, Errol and Mary Simmons, who will move to Hungary in January as fraternal representatives. He is from Franklinton, La., and she is from Laurel, Miss. He will become associate director of the new International Baptist Lay Academy, scheduled to open in Budapest in 1990.

The board also voted to establish the Southern Asia and Pacific Itinerant Mission, whose personnel will live much of the time out of suitcases as they travel to continue an evangelistic witness and ministry in limited-access countries.

Bob Stanley writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

The Second Front Page

## The Baptist Record

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# Southern Baptist group forms for the "middle of the road"

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP) — About two dozen Southern Baptists from around the nation — saying they represent the mainstream in the Southern Baptist Convention — met in Dallas in mid-December to form what they call a "centrist" coalition.

The organization, to be called Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, also hired a full-time "coordinator," David Currie of Paint Rock, Texas, to "get the movement underway in the states."

A news release issued by Currie after the Dec. 15-16 meeting said the group will "direct its message toward the 'broad center' of Southern Baptists who are disenchanted with the fundamentalist takeover of the convention and yet do not wish to abandon the convention or start a new denomination."

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, called the December meeting and will be chairman of the group. An executive committee will be named later, he said.

Moore, former first vice president of the SBC and twice candidate for president, said: "We are traditional,

mainstream, conservative Southern Baptists who are deeply committed to this convention and its historic principles. These principles, which are our heritage and legacy, and which must be preserved if our convention is to survive, include the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church, the separation of church and state and cooperative missions.

"Surely Southern Baptists can stop fighting and unite under these principles which have historically defined us as a group.

"With contributions down, baptisms down and unity shattered, enough is enough. Southern Baptists want and deserve a group to lead us out of this despair, a group which is truly committed to all that Southern Baptists have been in the past and which has a vision of cooperative mission for the future which includes all Southern Baptists.

"We support the restoration of our convention, not its destruction." Although the news release said the group formally organized at the December meeting, a group also calling itself Baptists Committed to the

Southern Baptist Convention sent out a mass mailing to more than 34,000 Southern Baptist churches in advance of the 1988 annual meeting of the SBC.

The mailing included a 10-minute recorded cassette tape from Moore and a brochure produced by Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The mailing stirred controversy in the SBC because of various charges the brochure made against conservative leaders.

Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge who was specifically mentioned in the brochure, responded to Baptists Committed by noting: "It appears to be a reorganization of the same people who for 10 years have been resisting a return to biblical theology.

"Baptists need to be working together to promote the Cooperative Program, evangelism and missions, not starting new political organizations that will be divisive and counterproductive to the welfare of the convention."

John Baugh, a Houston businessman who has been active in

Laity For the Baptist Faith and Message, one of the founders of the coalition, said the name comes from "two things: first, Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention means we are Baptists committed to being a part of the SBC and assisting in causing it to be what it should become. Second, without any doubt, the people whom I know in that group are traditional, mainstream Southern Baptists."

Moore told Baptist Press that although he called the December meeting and invited the 25 or so participants, he was unable to attend because of a schedule conflict.

James Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., who chaired the two-day session, said: "This is an attempt to form a centrist coalition which stands as an alternative between the political right wing on one hand and just checking out of denominational participation on the other.

"We feel there are people who wish to rally to that alternative. We feel there is a need for an emphasis on the (Continued on page 9)

## Committee promotes Martz, OKs handbells

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee made several business decisions during a meeting where they began work as a search committee to replace retiring Executive Director Earl Kelly.

In that meeting, the committee promoted George Martz to supervisor, building maintenance, approved bid acceptance for a roofing job, and okayed purchase of music equipment from budget surplus in the Church Music Department.

Martz, 36, has worked at the Baptist Building since March, 1977, as mechanical repairman assistant. He

became interim supervisor in November upon the resignation of his predecessor, Ray Huff. Martz has been self employed as a refrigeration contractor and he served in the U.S. Navy.

Martz attended Teheran American High School in Iran, and Hinds Community College. He is a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church. He and his wife, Lynn, have one son, Joshua, 3 1/2.

The committee approved a bid of \$22,332 from Boyles Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. to replace the roof at the Delta State University Baptist Student Union building.

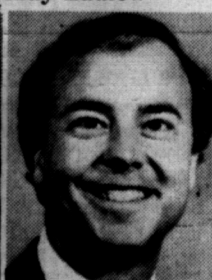
And the committee approved purchase of a set of handbells for \$3,000 and a K1000 electronic keyboard for \$2,640, both for field work of the Church Music Department.



Tony and Cindy Ludlow



Mayhall



Hewitt

## FMB appoints four

Four persons with Mississippi ties, including two singles, have been appointed missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They are Janet Mayhall, Earl Hewitt Jr., and Tony and Cindy Ludlow.

Miss Mayhall, daughter of retired missionaries, will live in Colombia where she will be working with the deaf.

Since 1986 she has been missions education consultant/minister for Deaf Opportunity Outreach in Houston, Tex.

Born in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, Miss Mayhall is the daughter of David and Ollie Mayhall of Magee who were Southern Baptist missionaries in West Africa for 31 years.

She is a graduate of Clarke College and Delta State University. And she earned a master of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master of arts in religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary.

She has been a mail clerk for Quali-

ty Mailing in Fort Worth; a teacher of severely brain-damaged babies and children for Littlest Angels, Inc., in Arlington, Tex.; a teacher for the deaf in Tifton, Ga.; a Foreign Mission Board journeyman in north Brazil; and a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Missouri.

Hewitt will live in Ghana where he, a physician, will be working at the hospital in Nalerigu.

He is a graduate of Southwest Mississippi Community College, the University of Mississippi, and earned the doctor of medicine degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Recently, he has attended Southwestern Seminary.

He has been a resident physician at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, a Foreign Mission Board receptor in Thailand and a medical volunteer in Ghana and Nigeria. Recently, he was a physician at Cary (Miss.) Christian Health Center (Luke Society) and a contract physician with

(Continued on page 6)



# Mission appointments down — still on target for goal

By Eric Miller

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — With 31 new Southern Baptist foreign missionaries appointed Dec. 13, total appointments came to 358 for 1988, compared to 407 in 1987 — a 12 percent decrease.

Despite the drop in missionary appointments for the year, Southern Baptists still can reach their goal of 5,600 missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board statistician predicted.

But it's going to be "very, very close," said Jim Slack, a missionary to the Philippines and scholar-in-residence at the board. Southern Baptists might miss the goal if the appointment rate slows much more, he added.

However, with the higher percentages of appointments gained over the last 18 years, especially the last eight,

Southern Baptists still are on target, he said.

"We are naturally disappointed that appointments in 1988 fell below 400 for the first time in four years," said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel.

Southern Baptists should not stop praying for the appointment of new missionaries because of the convention's "financial crunch," FMB President Keith Parks said. "We believe that the sending of missionaries will generate support, and we desperately need more missionaries."

The Southern Baptist Convention's theological/political controversy is "sometimes discussed among candidates," Parks said. However, "we don't have any indication that it has had a measurable impact on our appointments at this point."

Annual missionary appointments

totalled 247 in 1968 and climbed to 350 in 1978. The number topped 400 for the first time in 1982, with 406 appointments, but it dropped to 357 the next year and 343 in 1984.

"Missionaries do not come for appointment by accident," Tim Brendle, associate vice president for missionary personnel, said.

"It takes a deliberate effort on the part of the board, on the part of Southern Baptists in their praying, supporting, giving and their creating that environment in which those who would offer themselves for missions are clearly aware that Southern Baptists are still a missions people."

"If that is called into question at any point, then that's the most serious threat to the appointment of missionaries that we would have."

Eric Miller writes for the FMB.

# Global leaders try again for unified worldwide evangelism

By Art Toalston

SINGAPORE (BP) — One hundred years and six months ago, evangelical leaders met in London to coordinate their efforts to spread the Christian message throughout the world by the year 1900.

They made speeches but reached no clear decisions, and ultimately achieved no strengthening of world evangelization efforts.

Today world evangelical leaders are trying again. A pivotal juncture will be the Global Consultation on World Evangelization by AD 2000 and Beyond, scheduled for Jan. 5-8 in Singapore.

Each of 300-plus evangelical leaders expected to attend the consultation is affiliated with a denomination or organization planning to help evangelize the world by the year 2000. Their plans, however, are largely independent of each other, observers have noted.

No single group is sponsoring the consultation. Its organizers include people affiliated with such denominations as the Southern Baptist Convention and the Evangelical Churches of West Africa and such organizations as the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Campus Crusade for Christ, and World Vision International.

Third World evangelicals will comprise more than half the participants, said Thomas Wang of Hong Kong, chairman of the consultation's program planning committee. Wang, a native of China, is international director of the Lausanne Committee.

A team of 15 missiologists has drafted a 50-page working document listing 104 options that will be discussed during the four-day meeting. The establishment of an AD 2000 Global Task Force, staffed by representatives from various Christian denominations or organizations, is one such option.

The task force's role would be to mobilize networks of Christian groups to tackle the varied dimensions of world evangelization. And it could work to encourage and assist evangelistic movements on local, national, or continental levels.

Another resource being distributed to consultation participants is a new book, "Seven Hundred Plans to Evangelize the World" — published by New Hope Press of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union — by David Barrett, an Anglican missions researcher, and James Reapsome, editor of Evangelical Missions Quarterly in Wheaton, Ill. Barrett has been based at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., since 1985.

The book sounds a caution to mis-

sions leaders: of the 788 plans chronicled by Barrett and Reapsome, 534 have passed off the scene or are "clearly in the decaying process."

The authors also list more than 300 reasons why such plans fail, most of which involve "internal problems within the church and the Christian world."

Christians cannot blame external circumstances for their failure to evangelize the world, Barrett and Reapsome said.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Jan. 8 — Witness Commitment Day (EVAN Emphasis)
- Jan. 8-15 — Deacon Emphasis Week (CAPM Emphasis)
- Jan. 13-14 — Parenting By Grace Leadership Training; Baptist Building; 3 p.m., 13th-3 p.m., 14th (Fam. Min.-CT)
- Jan. 13-14 — Family Enrichment Leadership Training; Baptist Building; 3 p.m., 13th-3 p.m., 14th (Fam. Min.-CT)

## BAPTIST RECORD Advisory Committee elects Natchez pastor chairman



Puckett



Cork

Odean Puckett, pastor of First Church, Natchez, was elected chairman of the Baptist Record Advisory Committee during the committee's semi-annual meeting last month. He succeeds Joel Haire, pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs, as chairman.

The new vice-chairman is Ferrell

Cork, pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson. He succeeds Gary Holland, editor of the Mississippi Press of Pascagoula. Holland has rotated off of the committee.

The secretary, Evelyn Keyes, was re-elected. She is a member of the Baptist Record staff.

The Baptist Record Advisory Committee is a six-member, rotating committee with two members elected each year by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In addition to Holland, Martha Chambliss of Oxford rotated off following the last convention.

The other members are Bruce Hill, editor and publisher of the Holmes County Herald, Lexington; Billy Thames, president of Co-Lin College, Wesson; and Raymond Martin, a Jackson physician.



# Budget crisis hits Mercer University

By William T. Neal

MACON, Ga. (BP) — Mercer University trustees discovered a short-term debt twice as large as they previously had been told but reaffirmed Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey during their Dec. 1-2 meeting here.

Meanwhile, two groups of Mercer faculty members have asked for the resignations of Godsey and other administrators whom they believe hid the deficit.

The Georgia Baptist school incurred a \$10.8 million debt during the past five years, with projections of an additional \$4.5 million to \$6 million this year, said trustee Chairman Robert Steed.

Godsey admitted he made an error in judgment by not sharing complete financial information with trustees before the December board meeting. Trustees responded by passing

unanimously a resolution reaffirming their support of Godsey's leadership.

However, the trustee finance committee accepted the resignation of Robert A. Skelton, vice president for finance. Neither Skelton nor Mercer officials announced whether he will leave Mercer or move into another job affiliated with the university.

In separate meetings Dec. 6, the faculties of the College of Liberal Arts in Macon and the College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta called for the resignation of Godsey and other top aides.

Macon faculty passed a no-confidence resolution 74-14, and their Atlanta colleagues adopted their resolution unanimously.

Steed, an attorney from Atlanta, told reporters Mercer as a whole is in sound financial shape, even though the financial problem is serious.

Trustees and administrators agreed budget cuts of \$7 million will be necessary this year. A special trustee committee will work with administrators to determine where to make the cuts.

Faculty and administrators will be affected by the cuts, Godsey said.

Mercer's total indebtedness, including long-term loans, is about \$70 million, school officials said.

Godsey's critics have claimed the recent financial disclosures verified their charges of mismanagement at Mercer.

William T. Neal is associate editor, the Christian Index.

## Monroe plans worship workshop

Monroe County Baptists are holding a Worship Workshop, Feb. 11, at Meadowood Baptist Church, Amory.



Leafblad

Leafblad, associate professor of church music and worship at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, will be workshop leader.

Billy Bowie, minister of music at Meadowood and associational music director, says that all ministers of music, pastors, and any other interested persons are invited to attend.

The workshop begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 3 that afternoon. There is no fee. For details, contact the associational office in Becker at 256-8778.

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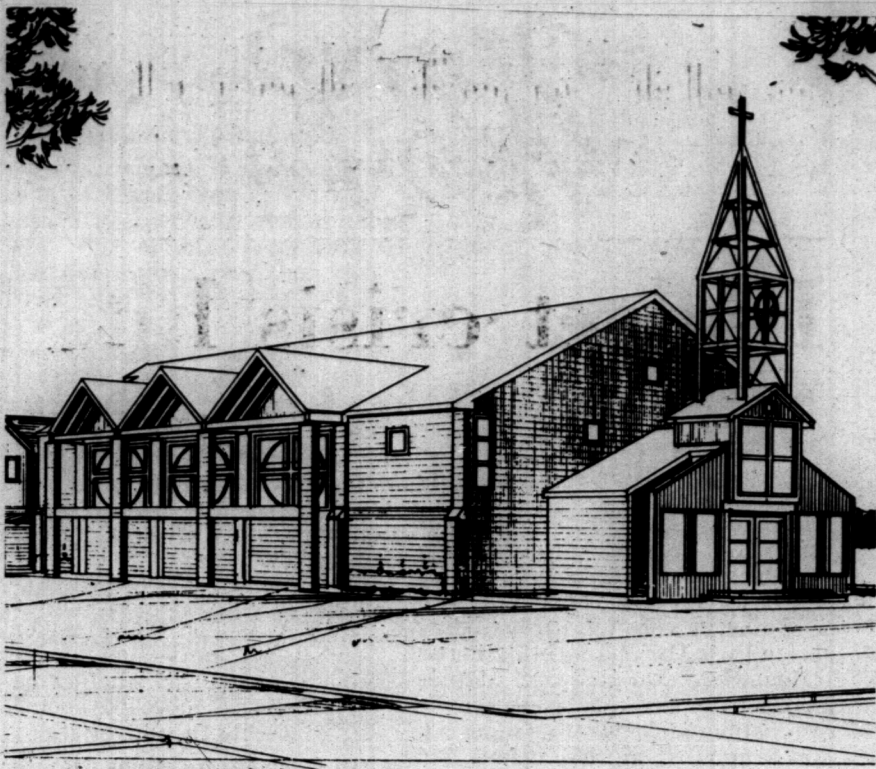
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## First Church, Vancleave, will dedicate sanctuary

As the year ended, so does a chapter in the life of First Church, Vancleave, and as the new year begins, so begins a new year for this 87-year-old church.

Sunday, Dec. 11, marked the end of worship services in the sanctuary that was constructed almost 40 years ago, and Sunday, Dec. 18, marked the beginning of services in the new 600-seat sanctuary. The new construction also involves an administration and education building housing staff offices, choir suite, and ten classrooms.

Randy Davis, pastor, noted that although the construction took only about 12 months, this move is the culmination of years of long range planning, praying, and giving. "In the last two years alone, we have seen over 150 people come to know the Lord and he has blessed financially in such a great way," he said. Two and a half

years ago the church entered into a "Together We Build" program through which the people have given over \$250,000.00. Last June 7, a Sacrifice Sunday Offering was taken, in addition to the TWB offering. On that Sunday, with 216 in Sunday School, over \$30,000.00 was given to the building program.

Vic Johnson has served as building program steering committee chairman and Don Rawls as co-chairman. Keith Cowart is the construction subcommittee chairman. Architects are Cowart and Cowart of New Orleans. Dennis Cowart of this firm grew up in First Church, Vancleave.

A dedication service for the new building will be held on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 3 p.m. The public is invited. Services will be held Mon-Thurs. nights at 7 p.m., Jan. 9-12, with guest speakers and musicians each night.

## Disaster relief conferees urged to add "missing 'R'"

By Steve Barber

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist disaster relief workers from throughout the country received praise for their program of disaster response, relief and recovery but were urged to "add the missing 'R'" — reconciliation — during a Dec. 8-10 conference here. Mississippi took a dozen of its task force members for the training which included Red Cross certification in mass feeding.

John LaNoue, associate director of Brotherhood for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, told 150 men and women from 17 states attending the National Disaster Relief Conference that their ultimate goal should be spiritual reconciliation of disaster victims to God through Jesus Christ.

"It's easy to become task-oriented at a disaster site and forget the main reason we are there," LaNoue said, adding that disaster relief volunteers should receive training as "advocate counselors" to serve as witness, "sharer," and advocate for individual victims.

The idea for these counselors came to LaNoue from on-site experience. As a general rule, far more people were being converted to faith in Christ during disaster relief efforts in foreign countries than in the United States, LaNoue discovered. This was because a group of translators — not the core

disaster crew — spent a great deal of time with the victims when they were not translating. "These translators became advocates for the victims as well as instruments of communication and reconciliation," he explained.

The weekend conference was replete with testimonies of how deeds of disaster relief volunteers served as a basis for witnessing and a vehicle for conversion to faith in Christ.

At times, the mere example of workers was enough, as in San Fernando, Mexico, following Hurricane Gilbert last October.

The Texas Baptist Men's crew had been feeding several thousand victims daily, but little verbal communication was taking place. The following Sunday, however, the small local Baptist church was jammed, and 35 adults received Christ as savior.

When asked to give a testimony, each one referred to the disaster team. One said, "It was the lives of these men who lived among us and helped us that made us want to know the God that they know."

Southern Baptist disaster relief response by volunteers is coordinated by the convention's Brotherhood Commission in conjunction with state Southern Baptist conventions.

Steve Barber writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

## Samford names School of Divinity

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The divinity school at Samford University has been named the Beeson School of Divinity, to honor benefactor Ralph Waldo Beeson of Birmingham, and in memory of his late father, John Wesley Beeson.

Samford trustees approved the new name Dec. 6, recognizing Ralph Beeson's contributions to the Alabama Baptist school.

Beeson, 88, was announced as the anonymous donor who last spring provided for the divinity school and the university the largest gift in Samford history. The amount of the gift was not announced.

While Samford is a Baptist institution, the Beeson School of Divinity is interdenominational.

The divinity school, which opened this fall with a class of 32, offers a curriculum leading to the Master of Divinity degree, the standard graduate-theological degree in ministry.

The program is open to people of all Christian denominations. Enrollment ultimately is expected to approach 180, Samford officials said.

## Texas elect Semple

DALLAS (BP) — James H. Semple of Paris, Texas, was elected director of the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission and a new Baptist Building was dedicated.

Semple, pastor of First Baptist Church in Paris since 1963, will succeed D.L. Lowrie, who has resigned to become executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. As commission director, he will oversee the work of the convention's evangelism missions, church services and Sunday school divisions.

The new facility houses the offices of the BGCT Executive Board staff, Woman's Missionary Union, Texas Baptist Men and the Baptist Church Loan Corporation.

## Lutherans cut missionaries

CHICAGO, ILL. (EP) — Officials of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) believe they'll have to reduce the number of overseas missionaries the church supports because of budget restraints. The ELCA, formed by a merger of three Lutheran Church bodies, had to cut 25 missionaries from its overseas staff to make the 1988 budget balance, and may have to make more cuts for 1989.

## Sellers offers toll-free phone, maternity calls

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center here has installed a toll-free telephone line to handle crisis pregnancy and maternity inquiries, (800) 552-9243.

Mary Dan Kuhnle, director of the Southern Baptist home for unwed mothers, said trained social workers will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time. Callers may leave messages on an answering machine after hours.

Sellers Home is supported by the

Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions and is operated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Sellers Home offers residential care in a family environment for pregnant unmarried women. Mothers-to-be receive professional prenatal and postnatal care as well as delivery services. Residents have access to professional counselors, child-care classes, and resources for completing their educations.

Calls about adoption should be directed to the home's regular telephone number so that the toll-free number may be left open for women in crisis, Kuhnle said.

## Cobbs takes new assignment

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Louis R. Cobbs, who has directed the processing of about 6,000 Southern Baptists for overseas missionary service in the past 20 years, will take on a new role at the convention's Foreign Mission Board in January.

He will become special assistant to the executive vice president, assuming liaison responsibilities with Southern Baptist seminaries and the coordinating committee of the Inter-Agency Council, through which the 20 agencies and boards of the Southern Baptist Convention relate. He also will prepare documents concerning the board's whole personnel selection process, which has become a model studied by other missionary-sending agencies.

Cobbs, director of the personnel selection department since 1968, cited personal health problems in asking to be relieved of the administrative responsibilities related to his personnel position. But he said he is delighted with the opportunities of the new assignment and feels it is "a place where I can serve effectively."

Until his successor is named, Wendy Norvelle, associate director of the department, will act as director.

## Court dismisses lawsuit alleging clergy malpractice

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — The first "clergy malpractice" lawsuit ever brought in the United States has been dismissed by the California Supreme Court, which ruled that neither the clergy nor others unlicensed as counselors or therapists can be held legally liable for the quality of the advice they counsel.

The ruling comes after eight years of litigation by the parents of Kenneth Nally, who killed himself with a shotgun in 1979, at age 24. For four years before he took his own life, Nally had been counseled by pastors at the Grace Community Church of the Valley, an evangelical church in suburban Los Angeles.

Nally's parents sued the church, arguing that the pastors should be held liable for failure to advise the young man to seek psychiatric care. They also said the church taught their son that he could still go to heaven if he committed suicide, and said that the church's emphasis on sin and guilt increased their son's depression.

## Doctrine study clinics coming

Nolan B. Howington, retired, curriculum consultant in Church Training Department, Sunday School Board, will be the leader for a series of Baptist Doctrine Study clinics the week of Jan. 20-Feb. 3. These meetings are being hosted by Mississippi Baptist Colleges and the Delta State BSU.



Howington The studies are open to pastors and lay persons who will be leading in the study of the 1989 doctrine study, *Doctrines Baptist Believe* during the spring. Meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day, followed by lunch.

The schedule for the week is as follows:

Monday, Jan. 30 - William Carey College; Tuesday, Jan. 31 - Mississippi College; Wednesday, Feb. 1 - Clarke College; Thursday, Feb. 2 - Blue Mountain College; Friday, Feb. 3 - Delta State BSU.

Howington served as an advisor and consultant on publication content dealing with assigned curriculum in the Church Training Department.

This series of Baptist Doctrine Study clinics is sponsored by the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Musicians hear plans for '90-'95

NASHVILLE (BP) — An emphasis on worship, the jubilee celebration of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department and publication of a new hymnal were subjects for discussion during the annual meeting of Southern Baptist church music leaders at the Sunday School Board Nov. 29-Dec. 2.

PraiSing II, a celebration of the church music department's 50th anniversary and the Sunday School Board's 100th anniversary, will showcase the new "Baptist Hymnal" now being developed, leaders announced. State leaders were told the March 11-14, 1991, event will feature evening concerts at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House, with daytime concerts in churches throughout the Nashville area.

Unsolicited hymn texts and tunes continue to be received for consideration.

Fred Kelly, Musicians on Mission coordinator in the church music department, said volunteers still are needed to work in churches in conjunction with the 1989 workshops in the Washington area, April 13-15, and in Denver, Sept. 28-30.

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## Devotional

# Remember

By Earl Kelly

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them" (Ecc. 12:1).

Each of us creates his own past. It is when we are in our youth that day by day we create the memories that will bless or burn in the "days of trouble" that are sure to come. King Solomon reminds us that present activities are the stuff of which memories are made.



Kelly

Unless we remember our Creator, the germ of evil that always lurks in the shadows of our minds will become our God. To remember the Creator is to crush evil before evil crushes us. Loren Fischer in *Highway to Dynamic Living* says:

The steam of behavior is only visible proof that the fire of thought is boiling the water of emotion. A heavy lid may curb the steam of action, but unless we curb the fire of thinking, the heaviest lid will blow high. Obviously we lose spiritual battles, not by failing to restrain our actions with heavier lids; we are defeated because we do not change the flames of our thoughts that boil the waters of emotion.

A classic illustration of that truth is to be found in the way Joseph handled the solicitation of Potiphar's wife. No other person need have known, but Joseph remembered his Creator and he fled. By remembering, Joseph met the day of trouble without regret.

On the other hand Peter forgot to remember and denied Jesus. Later the eyes of Jesus met his eyes and the gospel writer says, "And Peter remembered the words of Jesus . . . and he went out, and wept bitterly" (Matt. 26:75). At that moment he found no pleasure in his former actions.

Jesus informed us that memory remains alive after death. In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, Abraham says to the rich man in Hades, "Son, remember" (Lk. 16:25). Could it be that part of his torment was remembering that he had forgotten to remember?

Let us bathe every thought and action in 1989 with the memory of our Creator. In doing so, we have the opportunity to build memories that will bring pleasure in the coming days of trouble. Anne Aldrich describes the memory of those who forget to remember when she wrote:

*I made the cross myself, whose weight was later laid on me.*

*This thought is torture as I toil up life's steep Calvary.*

*To think mine own hands drove the nails!*

*I sang a merry song,  
And chose the heaviest wood I had  
to build it firm and strong.*

*If I had guessed — if I had dreamed*

*its weight was meant for me  
I should have made a lighter cross  
to bear up Calvary!*

Remember to remember!

Earl Kelly is executive director-treasurer, MBCB.

# Soviet Union grants permit for more Bibles

By Jim Burton

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The Soviet Union has granted a permit to the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists to import an additional 100,000 Bibles, according to Alexei Bichkov, the council's general secretary.

The permit follows a campaign last year by the United Bible Societies and the Baptist World Alliance, which sent 100,000 Russian-language Bibles prior to the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in the Soviet Union. The project was endorsed and promoted by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission of Memphis, Tenn.

Soviet Baptists initiated the permit request and received it without much trouble, said BWA General Secretary-Treasurer Denton Lotz.

"For years, Baptists in the Soviet Union have been trying to get Bibles," said Lotz, who credits this opportunity to Mikhail Gorbachev's program of glasnost and perestroika. "The aim of Soviet Baptists is for every Baptist to have a Bible."

"We don't have to smuggle these Bibles into the Soviet Union," said Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith. "We went in the front door. This has been done legally and above the table."

In 1987, Smith issued a challenge at a BWA meeting in Amman, Jordan, to Baptist men of the world to raise \$250,000, or half of the money needed to purchase the Bibles, which cost \$5 each. More than \$100,000 came from Southern Baptists. No Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funds were used in the effort.

Lotz and other BWA leaders credit the Brotherhood Commission's involvement with the first campaign's success.

Because the Soviet Union is ethnically diverse, the next shipment will include Bibles in German, Estonian, and other languages. Soviet Baptist leaders estimate that each Bible will be read by eight to 10 people.

Jim Burton writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

# FMB appoints 4

(Continued from page 3)

the Mississippi State Board of health. Born in McComb, Hewitt is the son of the Benton E. Hewitts of Summit. He grew up in Summit.

Tony and Cindy Ludlow will live in Japan where he will start and develop churches.

Since 1985 he has been pastor of Hickory Grove Church in Coldwater. He is a graduate of Memphis State University and earned the master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary. He served in the U.S. Marines and has been associate minister at Leawood Church, Memphis.

Mrs. Ludlow earned an associate of arts degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She has been an insurance applications field investigator in Memphis. Currently, she is a homemaker.

The Ludlows have three children: Matthew Clayton, born in 1981; Melissa Jean, 1984; and Nathan Wells, 1988.

All of these appointees will attend a seven-week orientation in Virginia beginning in March.

# Satanic crime on the rise, say police, occult experts

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — Satanic activity and related crimes are on the increase nationwide, according to police and experts on the occult. Police around the country are also beginning to connect many crimes to a satanic influence as they learn to recognize certain signs and symbols found at the scene of many crimes. Such signs and symbols have gone largely unmentioned until recent years.

"Satanism is a problem, it is growing, and it will continue to be a problem," says Sergeant Jon Hinchliff, head of a special investigative division of the Minneapolis police, specializing in satanism. Hinchliff adds that "there is a driving force to get people to go outside of traditional religions." Hinchliff, who has had contact with organizations and ex-

perts around the country which specialize in satanism, says he has found that "it is occurring in every state in this country including Hawaii and Alaska." Many municipal law enforcement agencies have added special investigative departments devoted specifically to satanic crime.

People involved with satanism are looking for a way to take control of their lives, according to Ted Schwartz, author of a book titled *Satanism*.

Schwartz says it is this desire for control that satanists have in common with those involved with the New Age Movement.

"The motivation is the same," explains Schwartz. "To play god, god — something where the individual is seeking this kind of control."

# Tomy Lea to lead study at Raymond

Tommy Lea will lead the annual January Bible Study for Raymond Baptist Church, Jan. 8-11. Study sessions will be held during each of the three worship services on Sunday: 8:45 and 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Monday thru Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30.



Lea

Lea is a native of Columbus. He serves as an associate professor of New Testament and Greek at Southwestern Seminary. Dr. Lea is the author of a number of works including *Survival Kit 3*.

# Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

## What about my name?

Editor:

I hope that I am the first one this year to declare, "I am praying about my name." In the past few years, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention, men of importance have publicly announced they are praying about whether or not to allow their names to go forward for an office. The thought occurred to me that I, too, have a name. Maybe I should give some thought and prayer to what role I could play in the convention.

Admittedly, Everett Childers is not a "household" name but somebody out there knows me. I have come to a conclusion about my name. At this time I am not going to allow my name to go forward for a convention office.

So what is my role? My role as a God-called preacher in the Southern

Baptist Convention is to lift up the name of Jesus. My role is to preach the Bible, it is God's Word. My role is to lead our people in evangelism and missions.

Can you describe your role? Is it to continually pour gas on the fire of controversy? Is it to write article after article labelling some "conservatives" or others "moderates"?

I thought we were all Southern Baptists. I never dreamed I would live to see the day that I would have to explain what kind of Southern Baptist I am. I thought Southern Baptists were those people who believed the Bible, salvation in Christ alone, missions, and evangelism. Common sense would dictate that if you do not believe in these then you aren't a Southern Baptist.

What's the problem here? The problem lies in a name. Perhaps we have been guilty of promoting our name

and neglecting to put forward the only name that can be Head of our convention, and that's Jesus.

Everett Childers  
Oxford

Perhaps it is difficult to keep everything in perspective and remember all of the details, but the theme of the BAPTIST RECORD through all of this has been that all Southern Baptists are conservatives and 99 percent of Southern Baptists are not involved in the controversy. We have lamented that to speak of the controversy demands some way of telling which of the edges of Southern Baptist life is which, and not to speak of the controversy is like putting one's head in the sand. That is not the role of a newspaper under any circumstances. — Editor

## Friends of the Kellys

Editor:

Being in the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center while my mother is recovering from a stroke has given me the opportunity to read your fine BAPTIST RECORD.

The article about the retirement of Dr. Earl Kelly was very impressive. We realize he is a man of God who has served him well.

He also has two fine children, a son and a daughter, not mentioned in the article. I know Dana and his wonderful wife, Lisa, as well as his two precious grandchildren. "Dana" Claire and Larken. We have watched this Christian family as they have lived across the street from us.

I know, first hand, that they will carry on the Kelly name in a way that will make Dr. Kelly as proud as any of his other accomplishments. Surely, the Lord is already pleased with them as his modern disciples.

My husband, Bill Gober, is a United Methodist minister who has sung at First Baptist many times. On one such occasion fans were printed and handed to the congregation. On the fan are the pictures of Dr. Frank Pollard, Larry Black, my husband, and David McIntosh, who, at the time, was the pastor of Christ United Methodist Church. It is dated Sunday, August 26, 1979. Our fan is framed and hangs in our study.

The theme that was printed on the

fan was "THE OLD TIME RELIGION — MAKES THE BAPTISTS LOVE THE METHODISTS." It was a good evening of preaching and singing.

Well, we Methodist Gobers love these Baptist Kellys in a special way. They have endeared themselves to us as loving neighbors.

May we all seek to serve Christ by loving and helping all his children whatever denomination, race or creed.

Dot Gober  
Jackson

Thank you. Actually, there are three children. The other two are another son, Brian, and the daughter, Kaye. — Editor

"Cooperation is essential, and it is clear that churches that work together are able to accomplish more than churches that work alone. An isolated independent church may take a neighborhood for Christ, but only a community of related independent churches can take a city for Christ." — Albert McClellan



# Book reviews

**SPIRITUAL NUGGETS;** Ryburn T. Stancil; Vantage Press; 516 W. 34th St., New York, N.Y. 10001; hardcover, \$18.95.

Ryburn T. Stancil lives in retirement in Brookhaven, Miss. He is a North Carolina high school graduate and a graduate of Wake Forest University in North Carolina. His seminary education was at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been a pastor in North Carolina and has taught at Bluefield College in Bluefield, Va. He has spent more than 40 years writing for religious and secular publications.

This is a book of devotions with one for each day of the year. Each is about one page in length. Many of the devotionals have appeared in the Terry Highlight of Terry, Miss., and in the weekly paper at Boone, N.C. Each devotional is about one page in length. There is one for Feb. 29.

**Braswell. George W. Jr. UNDERSTANDING SECTARIAN GROUPS IN AMERICA.** Nashville: Broadman, 1986.

The book addresses a subject of concern to most Christians. How do you deal with the many sectarian groups? What do they believe? How should a Christian deal with them? Many of our people work with these people, attend community functions with them, and even be related to them. How do you deal with them?

The book is divided into nine chapters. Each chapter deals with a different group. The author does a good job of presenting the origin of each group and singling out the main doctrinal differences between these groups and Christians. He closes each chapter with suggestions for Christians in dealing with these groups.

The author discusses the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, The Unification Church, The Way International, The Occult, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Seventh Day Adventist and more. The book would be an excellent resource for clergy and layman alike.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Meadville.

**Auchmuty. James A. Jr. BROTHERS OF THE BIBLE.** Broadman: Nashville, 1985.

As the title suggests, the book is largely a book of sermons on various brothers of the Bible. If a pastor is looking for material for a sermon series, he might find it here. — Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor, Providence Church, Meadville.

**RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland** — Two new books have been written by Southern Baptist missionary teachers at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland: Earl Martin, director of the seminary's Institute for Mission and Evangelism, wrote *Passport to Servanthood*, about T. B. Maston, the Southern Baptist pioneer in Christian ethics.

The other book, *Balthasar Hubmaier*, focuses on one of the leaders of the Anabaptist movement of the 16th century. Wayne Pipkin, professor of church history, co-authored the book on Hubmaier with John H. Yoder, a Mennonite who teaches theology at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.



## Crosses at Anchor Church join ones at 1,465 sites

Out front of Anchor Baptist Church in Lafayette County is a scene that is duplicated at 1,465 other sites in 18 states and in the Philippines and Zambia. That scene is of three crosses, representing the cross of Jesus and the two thieves crucified with him.

The crosses are being placed by an evangelist named Bernard L. Coffindaffer of Craigsville, W. Va., who told the Baptist Record that he has spent \$2.4 million since September of 1984 so far in placing them.

The idea, says Coffindaffer, are to remind people "that Jesus was crucified on a Cross at Calvary for our sins, and he will soon come again." He adds, "This is the sole reason for our work."

Says Anchor Church Pastor Gerald Shook, "Anchor Baptist Church is sharing in that vision and ministry. Knowing this to be God's vision and witness, we feel humbled to be asked to reflect this testimony of God in our area."



## Powerline for teens

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### "My parents are old-fashioned"

#### QUESTION:

My parents are very strict and old-fashioned. Almost everything I want to do with my friends is taboo. They are always afraid I will get into trouble. In fact, the only acceptable activity seems to be attending church. Why can't they understand that I want to take part in school activities and do what everyone else is doing? I don't like to be different — and I don't think I like God very much if he never wants me to have any fun.

#### ANSWER:

First of all, let us tell you that you are giving God a bum rap. He never intended for your faith to be a chore — in fact, worship that is grudging is no worship at all. Christianity is not a list of "do's and don'ts," with the "don'ts" list outweighing the "do's." It is a lifestyle with joy being one of its chief components. Any serious student of the

Bible can tell you that God's "don'ts" are always for the benefit of humankind — to keep us from harming ourselves or others.

Communication with your parents is vital. If your past communication has only been in the form of asking permission and being told "no," this may take some doing. Start out on a small scale by sharing some of your everyday activities with them and showing some interest in their daily lives as well. Give them an opportunity to know your friends and their parents also, if possible. Talk to them about the school activities and the sponsors who are in charge. Then choose one specific event and begin to lay the groundwork for permission. Be sure your parents understand all of the important details and agree by giving in a little, perhaps on the curfew. And by all means, live up to your agreement carefully. Show your parents that you are a responsible young person and this will relieve some of their anxieties.

Growing up and maturing should be a gradual process aimed toward independence. Succeeding in small ways gives you confidence for the larger decisions. Showing responsibility in small ways will give your parents assurance that they have given you the proper foundation. As you can see, everyone can benefit.

Thursday, January 5, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

### Remembering "Miz Wilds"

One Christmas, Auber J. Wilds ordered a most original gift for his wife — a new cover for her old umbrella frame. This inexpensive gift was but one instance of the frugality both of them practiced. I learned about it through an article Ev George shared with me, written by Rosa Nell Pitts Osborne.

On Jan. 1, 1918, seventy-one years ago this week, Mr. Wilds became director of Mississippi Baptists' Church Training Department. Of course, his work then was with BYPU. He was president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1947 and 1948. At first he made his headquarters in Oxford, traveling over the state from there. Later he moved his office to Jackson, but continued to maintain his home and family (wife, Mary; two daughters, Lucy Carlton and Mary Dent; mother; and sister) in Oxford. While traveling from Jackson, he spent many nights in his office, sleeping on a couch or a cot. Though he retired 35 years later from that job (36 years ago this week) on Jan. 1, 1953, five months before I began work with the Baptist Record, he and his wife became friends of mine.

Once when I was doing a story about the famous Leavell family, the Wildses invited me to supper, so I could interview Miss Marian Leavell, who lived in the old Leavell home next door to them.

Rosa Nell's description of "Miz Wilds" is exactly as I remember her: "A small, slender woman, with greying hair neatly tucked and pinned at the back of her head, wearing a plain cut dress which came below her knees, going quietly about her business, getting things done and spreading sunshine wherever she went." She died in 1986, at 96. He had died 17 years before, in 1969, at age 84. Their influence on lives of Mississippi Baptists is immeasurable.

Also the article's descriptions brought my own memories of the Wilds house back into focus: "As you walked into the front room, it was like going into the past, as you found yourself surrounded with 'old' furniture, neatly in place... with a homey quality. Then you stepped down into the next room, which was full of everything! — so much you could not find it all.

"It was a sitting room, what we would call a den today. There was no television, but a radio was on a table. There was a very old typewriter (and we could type on it if we had a mind to.) Over the typewriter hung a mirror that always had a scripture verse taped to it, a verse Miz Wilds was trying to memorize. There were magazines and newspapers everywhere, but all neatly stacked and inviting you. The room had large windows... and looked out to a bird bath in the side yard." Later, I think they got a TV, but they told me they had decided not to get involved in watching soap operas.

The night I ate with them, Miz Wilds' menu impressed me because it seemed easy to prepare: I wrote it down in the back of my Timesaving Country Cookbook: "Frozen salad, succotash on mashed Irish potatoes, canned ham slices, white bread, coffee, cherry pie and ice cream." She gave me her recipe for frozen salad. It has become a favorite of Mama's, to use at Christmas or for special occasions: "Melt two cups of mar-

shmallows with 2 tbsp. pineapple juice. Add an 8 oz. pkg. of cream cheese, and melt. Add can of drained fruit cocktail, can of drained pineapple, and a few cherries. Freeze (I freeze it in a milk carton). Slice, and serve on lettuce."

Rosa Nell Pitts Osborne said she ate her first spoon bread in the big dining room of the Wilds' house: "Spoon Bread: Bring two cups of sweet milk to a boil, and carefully stir in one cup of corn meal. Add one teaspoon of salt, cook for a few minutes, and remove from fire. Stir in one beaten egg, one tablespoon of butter, one tablespoon of lard, one teaspoon of baking powder, and one teaspoon of sugar. Bake for 20 minutes in a quick oven."

When Rosa Nell was a youth in BYPU at First Baptist Church, Oxford, Miz Wilds was the leader of the Intermediate Young People's BYPU. Rosa Nell remembers, "She had us over every week on a Thursday night. It was a time I never wanted to miss. I once went with a group of girls who wanted to arrive late and I never went with them again because I liked to get there early so as not to miss anything. There was always some different kind of game to play, or board games, a cook-out, just sitting on the porch swinging and talking, and of course something extra special on occasion.

"When we had a newcomer, it was the most fun to take them next door to the cemetery where we would find this certain grave of a little old woman and then tell the newcomer, if they would holler, 'Old woman, old woman, what're you doing down there?' she would answer, 'Nothing at all, nothing at all.' She would not answer us, as we had been there before, we told them. When the newcomer would say, 'I don't hear her,' we would say, 'You have to holler louder for her to hear you.' Of course we kept them holler- ing louder and louder until they 'caught on.' Much laughter and frolic prevailed on those occasions.

"We were always served some small refreshment and at times would find ourselves pulled aside, two or three here and two or three there, doing this or that, and without our knowing what was happening, find that we had met the Standard of Excellence, elected officers, or that we'd know what to do in being an officer or how to preside as president of our BYPU....

"With all of the many things going on, Miz Wilds always found time for our... problems, calming our fears with hope, and changing our hearts to laughter. Once when I needed a little help, she took me to the bookcase in the front room, took out a book and read to me a poem entitled, 'Just Keep On Keepin' On.' I can't remember the words, but the title has kept me going many times.... How could such a small, slender woman be so big, big, BIG in my cherished memories?"

Perhaps a good motto for this new year of 1989 would be the title of that poem — "Just Keep On Keepin' On."

## Happy New Year!!



# Just for the Record

## December class at Southwestern includes 13 from Mississippi



The Benton-Tippah Association Youth Choir presented as its Christmas offering the musical, EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US, Sunday night, Dec. 4, at Ashland Church, Ashland. Wednesday night, Dec. 7, they performed the same musical

at Springdale Church, Ripley. This is the third year the association has sponsored the youth choir. Director is Anthony Mitchell. Coordinator is Lola M. Autry. Hope Stone was rehearsal accompanist. Soloists were Candy Gunn and Heath Joiner.



Girls in Action of Emmanuel Church, Ocean Springs, participated in an awards ceremony in recognition of completion of Missions Adventures. The girls, in native costume, also presented a program highlighting Southern Baptist missionary efforts around the world. Front, from the left, are Cherelle O'Neal, Dana Beasley (foreground), Andrea Bardwell, Ginny Moss and Jeanna Kovacevich; back, Deva Travis, Eve Gillan, Robin Simpson, Carissa O'Neal, Julie Miller and Renae Beasley. GA leaders are Mrs. Karla Stahl and Mrs. Reba Swartz.



Acteers were honored recently in a coronation service at First Church, Boyle. Pictured, left to right, are Queen Beth Hood with Crown Bearer Amy Chennault; Queen with Scepter Leigh Coghlan with Scepter Bearer Wren Chennault; Queen Regent in Service Kenna McClafflin; Queen Regent Machele Pinkston with Cape Bearer Lori Barnett; and Queen Melanie Labella with Crown Bearer Sydney Melton.

## Staff changes

Tommy Vinson has become pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon, moving from Colonial Hill Church in Southaven. Prior to that he was pastor of churches in Corinth, Shannon, and Myrtle. He has served as chairman of the order of business committee and vice president of the pastor's conference.



Vinson

Clarence May Jr., moved from the pastorate of Weir Church, Weir, (Choctaw Association) to Cedar Bluff Church, Cedar Bluff, (Clay Association).

Jim Haynes has joined the staff of Gulf Gardens Church, Gulfport, effective Dec. 4. His former pastorate was at Forest Avenue Church, Biloxi. He has been in the ministry for over 28 years and has worked in various areas of associational and church work.

Thomas Ansley has resigned as pastor of New Salem Church, Lowndes County.

First Church, Winona, raised \$14,937.50 for Lottie Moon, Dec. 18, in its campaign, "All the way in one day." The goal was \$12,800. Clifton and Cathy Curtis, the first missionary couple sent out by First Church, Winona, spoke Sunday, Dec. 11. They left Dec. 30 for language school after which they will be assigned to Burkina Faso.



The RAs of Taylor Church, Taylor, display the banner which won them first place at RA Day at Central Hills Retreat. The new RA chapter, organized October, 1987, was named after James A. Bowen, a missionary in Arizona.

Pictured, front row, left to right, are David Dees, Marty Dees, C. C. Miller, and Chad Dees; second row, Richard Manning, Robert Mooney, Brian Patton, Chris Patton, and Clay Ferguson; third row, Robert Patton, director; Marion Dees, pastor; and Jamey Mooney, leader. RAs not pictured include Jamie Williamson and Robert Williamson.



In cooperation with a countywide mission project of Lincoln Association, four women from New Prospect Church, the pastor, and one layman spent a day recently working in the clothing department at State Hospital, Whitfield. The group sorted, sized, and hung clothing in the women's department. Those who took part are pictured. First row: Mrs. Jerry Smith, Mrs. Bob Watts. Second row: Mrs. Ed Lambright, Mrs. Claude Wooten, and the pastor, Randall Walker. Not shown, Ed Lambright.

FORT WORTH, Texas — Ministers should exemplify a Christian work ethic and "earn what you paid," Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary told graduates during commencement ceremonies Dec. 16 at Southwestern Seminary.

Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday conferred 298 degrees on the class, including 21 from the school of church music; 145 from the school of religious education; and 132 from the school of theology. Thirty-three received doctor's degrees, the most in Southwestern's history. Students from seven foreign countries received degrees.

The December class included 13 from Mississippi.

The Mississippi graduates were Johnny Nolen Alford, Madison, minister of music; Terry Glenn Brown, Columbia, master of divinity; Martha Estelle Falvey, Grenada, master of arts in religious education; Ronnie Douglas Falvey, master of arts in religious education; Lisa D. Hart, Dennis, master of arts in religious education; Gwendolyn Irene

Jenkins, Oxford, master of arts in religious education;

Thomas F. Jenkins, Petal, master of music; Pamela Dawn Magee, Jackson, master of arts in religious education; Pete Pearce, Forest, master of arts in religious education; Lisa Diane Prather, Brandon, master of arts in marriage and family counseling; Cynthia Gail Snow, Meridian, master of arts in religious education (she is now minister of children/preschool, Fairview Church, Columbus, Ga.); Una Dianne Stamper, Jackson, master of music; and John Francis Taylor, Columbus, master of divinity.

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## Singing Churchmen elect officers

Pictured from left are the officers of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. They are Jerry Morgan, central area director; Leon Bedsole, president; Lew King, president-elect; Bettye Jones, treasurer; Graham Smith, ex officio; Kenny Adams, secretary; Clyde Carraway, south area director. Not in photo is Rick Munn, north area director.



## Med Center forms singing group

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's talented group of BSU students have formed a singing group which performs on special occasions at the hospital. The group is comprised of Medical Technology and Radiography students at MBMC and is led by Gene Rester, chief technologist in MBMC's Cardiac Catheterization Lab. Pictured seated from left on the front row are Theresa Bell, Pam Gregory, Benita Moucha, Lana Wells and Vicki Lawrence. From left on the back row are Kathy Brock, Sheila Blanchard, Mark Robinson, instructor, Jim Aron, Rozilyn Wright, Sherrie Long, Laurin Gordon, Bill Thomas, Gene Rester, Gina Osborn, Willie Lyles, Beth Jay, and Steve Compton, instructor.

## Names in the news

NASHVILLE (BP) — Texas journalist Louis Moore will become a media relations and publications consultant for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, effective Jan. 1, announced CLC Executive Director Richard Land.

Moore, who lives in the Dallas area, on an interim basis will edit the agency's various publications, including Light magazine; manage the news operations of the commission's regional and national meetings; participate in program planning; and work with the CLC trustees and staff to plan the use of mass communications for the agency, Land said.

Moore, 42, was religion editor of the Houston Chronicle from 1972 to 1986 and was editor of the Plano (Texas) Star Courier from 1986 to 1988. He currently is professor of journalism at Collin County Community College.

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Vir-tus Gideon, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Seminary, died Dec. 14 following a heart attack. He was 61.

A native of Winters, Texas, Gideon was known for his work in translating the Gospel of Mark for the New King James Version of the Bible.



Kellum Jennings, center was ordained by Providence Church in Cleveland, Dec. 4. He is serving as pastor at Stringer Church, Stringer. Pictured with Jennings are Haley Mosley, left, chairman of deacons of Providence Church and Eugene Walden, right, pastor of Providence Church.

"The Cooperative Program is a way to stretch a dollar around the world." — Dan Ray

## Southern Baptists group forms . . .

(Continued from page 3)  
essentials of Baptists. We think the Baptist understanding of the priesthood of the believer is in jeopardy; that the democracy of the local congregation is being threatened by pastoral autocracy."

Slatton, who declined to identify the other participants in the meeting, said Baptists Committed is "a coalition which includes fundamentalists, moderates and anybody who is willing to work together around a commitment to the faith that honors Baptist freedom."

He added: "Ten years ago zealous people — give them credit for their sincerity — thought they could save the Bible by attacking the denominational structure. What they did was not save the Bible but destroy our unity and our trust."

Moore said the new organization will have a political dimension and the group will continue to try to elect a candidate "who will personify the centrist position of where I think the great majority of Southern Baptists are."

Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, said he attended a small meeting of six people in advance of the larger meeting to discuss the issues but did not attend the organizational meeting.

"We are in an identity crisis," said Jackson. "The ordinary Southern Baptist has nowhere to go. Either he is identified with the group in charge or he is called a liberal or a moderate. This group (Baptists Committed) is trying to provide a place for mainline Southern Baptists who believe the Bible is the Word of God and in our missions endeavor."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## The Spirit empowers the church

By Bert Breland  
Acts 2:1-47

The feast of Pentecost began as a Jewish agricultural holiday. The word "Pentecost" means 50th and so 50 days after the official beginning of the harvest season there would be a great celebration known as the feast of Pentecost. This day of Pentecost referred to in the second chapter of Acts takes on special significance for Christianity because it coincides with the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower the church. We have borrowed the name of the Jewish holiday, but we have our own special tradition.



Breland

To Luke, the coming of the Holy Spirit marks the turning point for the Christian community. It gives them the strength they need to come out in the open and begin preaching the gospel. It is the inauguration of their ministry and closely parallels Luke's account of Jesus' baptism when the Holy Spirit descended on him and his ministry began. Luke describes the

### BIBLE BOOK

coming of the Spirit with two symbols. There was "the rush of a mighty wind," and "cloven tongues of fire" — sometimes that could be heard and seen, something that man could experience with two senses which makes the experience more difficult to discredit. Wind represents something that is mysterious, engulfing, unseen, and yet powerful. Fire represents something that is all-consuming. Both are powerful symbols of the Holy Spirit. Luke states that this Spirit filled those present and it results in a powerful witness for Christ.

After they were filled with the Spirit Luke says that they "began to speak with other tongues." There are many questions that arise at this point and far too many to deal with at this time; however, some things seem clear about this experience. First, all of those present were hearing what was being said in their own native dialect, even though all of those speaking were Galileans who couldn't possibly know the languages of all who were present. Second, that which was being spoken was not

unintelligible but, quite to the contrary, was made more intelligible because it was in the language of everyone's homeland. It seems likely that the real miracle is more one of hearing than it is of speaking.

After this experience, Simon Peter feels compelled to make a stand and explain what has just happened. He explains by defending the disciples against the charge of drunkenness. He explains to the crowd that it is only the third hour (9 a.m.) which is far too early to be drinking, especially on a holy day. Possibly this charge has been leveled because of their ecstatic and enthusiastic behavior.

Peter goes on to explain the coming of the Spirit as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. This prophecy will have a special significance to these Jews who are in town for an agricultural holiday because of the context of Joel's prophecy. When Joel spoke to the people of Israel, it was following a time of devastation from locusts, and he called on the people to repent and allow God to pour out his full blessings on them. Simon Peter declares that this day has come and now the Spirit is available to all people, regardless of age, sex, or race.

Following his explanation, Simon Peter seizes

the opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. He masterfully relates his message to their heritage in scripture that they understand, and then forcefully proclaims that this Jesus whom they crucified is the Christ of God. Seeing that his message has been heard and received in the heart, Simon Peter then calls the people to repentance. Peter has set a good example for all witnesses. After he has presented his message, he gives the people a chance to respond and then he makes clear how they should respond.

The final verse of chapter 2 gives us a brief description of the early church's growth and development of ministries. The church was holding all things in common in order to provide for all the needs of its members. This may not indicate that everyone sold everything they had, but that they sold things as various needs arose. The exciting thing that we see in these verses is the love and fellowship that they shared. There was a special spirit of gladness, sincerity, sharing and praise, and the Lord kept adding to their numbers — a good example for all churches.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

## Mandate: Proclaim power of the old rugged cross

By J. Greg Martin  
I Corinthians 1:18, 21-31

At the 1988 Republican Convention in New Orleans, Senator John McCain of Arizona spoke of his love for our country and flag. He told about his experiences as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam Conflict. McCain spent 5½ years in a Communist prison. During that time he met a young patriot named Mike Christianson. Christianson made an American flag out of cloth and led 30 other POWs in the pledge of allegiance every day. When the Communists discovered this ritual they destroyed the flag and severely beat him. Even after this mistreatment, as soon as Christianson was thrown back in the cell, he sewed



Martin

### LIFE AND WORK

another flag to lead the men in their pledge of allegiance to our great country. Christianson's commitment to the freedom of America was unwavering.

Our allegiance to the cross of Christ needs to be of this caliber. It was the old rugged cross that brought us forgiveness, freedom, and fellowship with the Master. Verse 18 teaches that to those who are lost, the cross means nothing. It is only foolishness. For the child of God there is another perspective of the cross. The cross means everything. The cross for those who are saved is a place of power. It is the place where God took our sins away. It is the powerful place where love was discovered. The cross is the juncture where the road to abundant life is uncovered.

This revelation of the power of the cross is not

known to all, but only to God's chosen children. I Corinthians 1:26-27 teaches that God's calling is not for those who would seek the wisdom of the world, but for the weak and less noble. Some of the wisest people in our world do not even have a high school education. From God's perspective, the wisest men in the world are those who gain their insights from the cross of Calvary.

It is when we fail to depend on the power of the cross and the wisdom that is in Christ that disharmony develops in the church. The world's wisdom is described in James 3:14 as being rooted in strife. I have seen too many committee meetings and business meetings entertain the wisdom of men rather than the mind of Christ.

To have unity in the church we must rally around the old rugged cross. Our allegiance must be to Jesus Christ. Verse 30 teaches that he has been given to us so we can know God's

wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. In him all the desires of our hearts can be met. What more do we need than God's wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption? All of these are found in Christ. Because of this truth, our glorying should be only in the Lord. We are forbidden to boast in any man's wisdom or teaching. Only Jesus deserved the praise from the fruit of our lips. Only he is worthy.

We should speak of Christ's glory in the church to create harmony. We should also tell of his glory to the lost to bring them to Jesus. January 8, 1989, is Witness Commitment Day in many churches across our convention. It is a day to once again pledge our allegiance to the message of the cross. God's desire and mandate is for us to proclaim the power of the old rugged cross.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach.

## "Accepting our mission" — from fishermen to followers

By Gary Berry  
Luke 5:1-11

What an incredible scene it must have been! People were crowding around Jesus to hear the Word of God. Does that happen in your church or in your Sunday School class? How often do we need knowledge of "crowd control" principles in churches or in the work place to manage people who "press in" to hear the Word of God? Hungry and searching people are still drawn to the Word of God when it is presented in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Berry

Jesus called into use the fishing boat of Simon Peter and addressed the crowd from the boat. When he had finished speaking, Jesus gave Simon instructions which resulted in a catch of fish that filled two boats. Simon must have been astounded, for after fishing all night, he and his partners had

nothing to show for it.

This occasion was another of those turning points in the life of Simon Peter and the other disciples. Jesus used the circumstances to teach another unforgettable lesson. Certainly, it must have been difficult for Simon to accept the fact that Jesus knew more about fishing than a fisherman. Furthermore, he knew more about the lives of these men than they understood. Simon struggled with learning that one is required to obey Jesus, not to instruct him. Our obedience to Jesus is to be consistent and all-inclusive of every area of our lives.

After much prayer, my wife and I sensed the guidance of God to enter New Orleans Seminary. Most people from whom I sought counsel advised against resigning a good church and moving to the campus with a family. From one perspective we agreed that it did not "make sense." Yet, it was clear that this was precisely what God was leading us to do. On the day I announced this decision to the church,

God provided financial resources through a first time visitor in the worship service and later, through a godly deacon. Our needs were met. The lesson was unforgettable: we are to obey Jesus even when it does not make sense or when doing so, would seem to be unproductive.

Jesus announced the purpose of God for these fishermen. From that moment they would fish for men and "bring them back alive" (that is an acceptable translation of verse 10). This is the commission given to every person who follows Jesus. There are none among us who are excluded from the call to bring people to Christ. Indeed, we may become so misguided and self-centered that we make the "work of the church" our avocation. Shuffling papers, organizing groups, and scheduling activities are not to become the products of our calling. The "work of the church" (every church) is to bring people to Jesus. The calling of EVERY Christian is to bring people to Jesus.

To be faithful to this call requires the same commitment and sacrifice offered by Simon

and his partners. The scripture says, "they forsook all and followed him". If we are unfruitful servants, it may be that we have not "left all" to follow Christ.

A deacon who has been a friend for several years reached a turning point in his life. When a close friend of his died suddenly and without Christ in his life, the conviction for failure to witness to him was painful. As a result, he made a sacred vow to God. From that time to this he has operated his business just to make a living; he lives to bring men to Jesus. God has blessed his commitment and his business.

There are people around us who are lost because they have never received Jesus as Lord and Savior. We are called to bring them to Christ. We can do that by praying for their salvation, serving them in love, and by sharing the gospel with them.

Do you know or suspect a friend, a relative, or work associate to be lost? Go and "bring them back alive" to Christ. We need no further instructions. We need to be obedient.

Berry is pastor, First, McComb.



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Nov. 19, 1988 -  
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The Irvin Johnsons  
Mr. Jewel Bilbo  
Gladys, Bailey & Marie Bilbo  
Bill & Earline Hardin  
Middle Adult Sunday School,  
Siloam BC, Meadville  
Wingfield Black  
Mrs. Miller Wyatt  
Mrs. Miriam Self Blalock  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Mary Pratt Sunday School,  
FBC, Marks  
Mr. M. G. Holloway  
Mrs. Hill Blalock  
Mrs. Eugenia Farrington  
Mr. Harold Blanchard  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Brown  
Kerry Boatman  
Yale Street Baptist Church  
Clarence Bodie  
Mrs. C. T. Seale  
Mrs. Barbara McCullar Boone  
Mr. & Mrs. Norris Wray  
Mr. & Mrs. Boyce Keating  
Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Graham  
Welby N. Boulton  
Lake Como Baptist Church  
Mrs. Winnie Carlisle  
Winfred Bounds  
Mrs. Mary E. Adair

Mrs. Ernest Bourgeois  
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Stevenson Jr.  
Brother of Leroy Boyd  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett Jr.  
Mr. Don Bray  
Mrs. J. R. Edwards  
Merle Breazeale  
Mrs. O. G. Newman  
Mrs. Margaret Brigrance  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Lawshe  
Harold Brooks  
Mr. & Mrs. James Ward  
J. D. Broome  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Boroughs  
Mr. Gus D. Brown, Sr.  
Dr. Mattie Mae Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Vandevender  
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Gazaway  
Mrs. Maggie R. Brown  
Officers & Directors,  
Trustmark National Bank  
Mrs. Jessie R. Brunson  
Mrs. R. W. Herbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Pryor  
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Stevenson Jr.  
Mrs. Florence Mims Bryan  
Jessie & Josie Guess  
Mrs. Bertha Buckley  
Bill Harpole & Mrs. Harpole  
Mrs. Iva Mae Bush  
Mrs. J. O. Ellard  
James, Jo & Jessica Neely  
Mrs. Mable Butler  
Mr. & Mrs. Earle Richard  
Louise Cade  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Mr. Robert Caldwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Turner  
Ida Carlisle  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Pruden  
Mrs. Charles Carnes  
Mrs. Ronald Anderson  
Mrs. Byron Johnson  
Mrs. Forrest Carpenter  
FBC, West Point, Inspiration  
Sunday School  
Robert C. Carpenter  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ellis  
Novice Carr  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel B. Stephenson  
Mrs. Effie Mae Smith Case  
The Willard B. Foster Family  
Mrs. Zena H. Clark  
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram E. Davis Sr.  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Ellen Coats  
Mrs. Edna Earle Coats  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Cobb  
Mrs. Boyce Keating  
Mr. Gordon Coley  
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Combs  
Joe Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Mrs. Marjorie Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Conerly & Family  
Mr. Vance Collum  
Mr. & Mrs. Owen D. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Makamson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph P. Williams  
Mrs. Alice D. Combs  
Mr. & Mrs. John Dugan  
Jessie Day Conerly  
Ms. Christine Cockerham  
Mrs. Dot Cooper  
Mr. & Mrs. O. P. Baker Sr.  
Mrs. Linda Crane  
Dr. Mattie Mae Brown  
Dorothy B. Creagan  
Mrs. B. B. Stamps & Family  
Mr. Collie Crockett  
Barney & Myrtice Cook  
Clifford Crosby  
Country Creek Ministry

Lethal Cross  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry S. Milner  
Connie Alderman Crowther  
Lottie Alderman  
Mrs. Dorothy Grantham  
Mrs. J. J. Crozier  
Mr. & Mrs. B. E. Gandy  
Mr. Clyde Lester Cummins  
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Knight  
Mr. Ross Dale  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Sandifer  
Mrs. Margaret Sandifer  
Mrs. Edwin T. Spivey Jr.  
R. E. Dale  
Mrs. Jean Brister  
Jim Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Harmon  
Mrs. Agnes Davis  
Mrs. Thomas Russum  
Mr. R. J. Delaney  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy White  
Mr. & Mrs. Vance E. Windom Sr.  
Rev. & Mrs. Vance Windom, Jr.  
Mrs. Maggie Barbara Keen Denson  
Lois & Travis Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Bell  
Ms. Sue Hamilton  
Miss Helen Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Statham  
Sunshine Sunday School,  
Morrison Heights  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Warren  
Mrs. John Slay  
Elizabeth Slay  
Adults Couples Sunday School, Bethany BC,  
Slate Springs  
Men's Sunday School,  
Bethany BC, Slate Springs  
L. W. Doler Family  
Mrs. W. B. (Mamie) Dickerson  
Mr. & Mrs. Stan N. Murphy  
Charlie Dixon  
JoAnn, Gary, Celisa, Jamie, & Jay Foster  
Ethel Donaldson  
Emily V. Thompson  
Mrs. Hilton Varnada  
Barbara Dyre  
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Nipper  
Mr. Cyrus Eaves  
Dr. & Mrs. Ovin C. Ray  
Wilson Edmondson  
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Long  
Mrs. Montye Edwards  
Mrs. Rush E. Shumate

Mr. Joe Ellis  
Mr. Floyd Malone  
Ruby Ellis  
Mr. William Carollo  
Mrs. Edna Fowler Erwin  
Mrs. W. F. Haymon  
Jayne, Buck & Tom Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Erwin  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Edmondson  
Miss Sallie Farley  
Mrs. Elene W. Wellons  
Mr. I. W. Finley  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion & Wendy  
Mrs. Lucille Ray Fisher  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. Hays Stewart  
Mrs. Stella Fleeman  
Sunshine Club, FBC, Rolling Fork  
Mr. Flynt  
Mr. & Mrs. David Lee Valentine  
Helen Fore  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter L. Catt  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Foster & Don  
Mr. & Mrs. Ira L. Foster  
Libby B. Freeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Roy Kennedy  
Mrs. Florence Fuller  
Mrs. Mary B. Ford  
Mr. Robert "Bob" Fulmer  
Barbara & Charles Bevil  
Mark Boykin  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Vandevender  
Mrs. J. P. (Ruth S.) Fulton  
Mrs. Buck Moore  
Ms. Frances Harris  
Mrs. Fred Marshall  
Ladies Fellowship Sunday School, FBC, Belmont  
Mrs. Evelyn Funderberg  
T. J. & Roma Helms  
Adult Couples Sunday School, Bethany BC, Slate Springs  
L. W. Doler Family  
Mrs. Norene West  
Sister of Mrs. Blanche Gaither  
Mrs. Blanche Gaither  
Mr. Gandy  
Gary & Rosemary Harrison  
Mrs. "Lee" Gardner  
Miss Mary E. Waggoner  
Mr. A. W. Garraway  
Miss Honor Ingram  
Miss M. J. Ingram  
Mrs. Carease Garrett  
Ruth Sunday School, FBC, Eupora  
Daryl Geiger  
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. McBride  
Clarence Gill  
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene I. Farr  
Leonard Goldman  
Mrs. Frank William Jr.  
Dr. H. B. Goodman  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin G. Evans Sr.  
Roy Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett Jr.  
Dr. William J. Goyer  
Mrs. Eloise C. Dent  
Mr. Jerry Grace  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Vinson  
Mrs. Evelyn Gray  
Rev. & Mrs. D. C. Hartley  
Mrs. Troy Gray  
Shiloh XYZ, Pelahatchie  
Luther Grice  
Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Townsend  
J. Wall Griffin  
Mrs. Roy Lundquist

## DECEMBER 6, 1988 WAS "RALPH HESTER DAY" AT

### THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



Executive Director Paul N. Nunnery (left) congratulates Ralph Hester of Jackson (right) on 40 years of service to needy children at The Village. Ralph is an extraordinarily gifted man who has been recognized by his peers as a leader and motivator. As a Trustee he has held almost every Village leadership role including that of President of the Board. Ralph is a businessman who is an active member and deacon of First Baptist Church, Jackson. In recognition of Christian ministry at its best Village Trustees voted unanimously to designate December 6, 1988 as "RALPH HESTER DAY".



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hester (Ralph and Mary) of Jackson are shown with Mayor and Mrs. Fred Gaddis of Forest (Fred and "Tweency") during luncheon festivities December 6. Mayor Gaddis has contributed 21 years of service to The Village.

### HONORS

Mrs. Leola Lane Griffin  
Yale Street Baptist Church  
Mrs. Martha Jo Compton  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Griffin  
Mrs. Esther C. Kemp  
Spence & Kathryn  
Dr. & Mrs. William A. Sirmion  
Mrs. W. D. Griffin  
Mrs. Raymond Barr  
Grace W. Hailings  
Cleo Beatty  
Flora Wilkerson  
Mr. Frank H. Hammond  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Scarbrough  
Mr. M. G. Holloway  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe R. Byars  
Ms. Dorothy Carlisle  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Jones  
Clayton Walker Hamric  
Otis & Ann Beasley  
Mrs. Olean Hardin  
Mrs. Norene West  
L. W. Doler Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Hardin  
Joe H. Hardin  
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Edmondson  
Mother of Ray Hardy  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett Jr.  
Mary Hargrove  
Ms. Charline Killebrew

Mrs. Lillian Ainsworth  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ainsworth  
Miss Mai Ellis Allen  
Mrs. Susan C. Wilson  
Mrs. Maude Barney  
Fannie Ratcliff Sunday School, Galilee BC, Gloster  
Mrs. Pat Cathoun  
Serenity Sunday School Class  
Rev. & Mrs. John Causey  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Davis  
Mrs. H. E. Covington  
Mrs. Susan C. Wilson  
Mary Etta Damon  
Dr. & Mrs. Henry J. Jacob  
Miss Evette Davidson  
Women's Bible Class  
Mr. J. F. Ellis  
FBC, West Point, Bible Learners Sunday School  
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Heaton  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Peebles  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Herbert  
Mrs. Gladys Sims  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hester  
Mrs. W. H. McKenzie Jr.  
Miss Christine Hollis  
Mrs. Pattie M. Norris

Mr. & Mrs. Ron (Diane) Kinsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. (Betty) Henderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lang  
Mrs. Gladys Sims  
Audrey Little  
First Baptist Church, Charleston, TEL Class  
Mr. Jack Markwell  
Emma Edmonds Sunday School, Calvary, Tupelo  
Latoya Mason  
Mrs. Jacqueline B. Gaskin  
Kenneth T. Misso, Sr.  
Elon Baptist Church  
Jeff Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Gann  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Redd  
Miss Honor Ingram  
Miss M. J. Ingram  
Mr. Linus Scott  
Fellowship Bible Class, Woodland Hills BC  
Mrs. W. M. Scribner  
Mrs. Lucille S. Upton  
Mr. & Mrs. James Spell  
Mrs. Gladys Sims  
Mrs. Eileen Stokes  
Fannie Ratcliff Sunday School, Galilee BC, Gloster  
Mrs. Lois Trusty  
TEL Sunday School, FBC, Charleston  
Mrs. Charles D. Wilson  
Ms. Mai Ellis Allen

## NOTE — 1989 Change of Address

The attention of every Village friend is invited to the fact that our mailing address as of January 1, 1989 is:

The Baptist Children's Village  
P. O. Box 27  
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027

The change of address is effected in order to use a postal station which is about 6 miles nearer to our central offices, thus conserving time and vehicle costs.

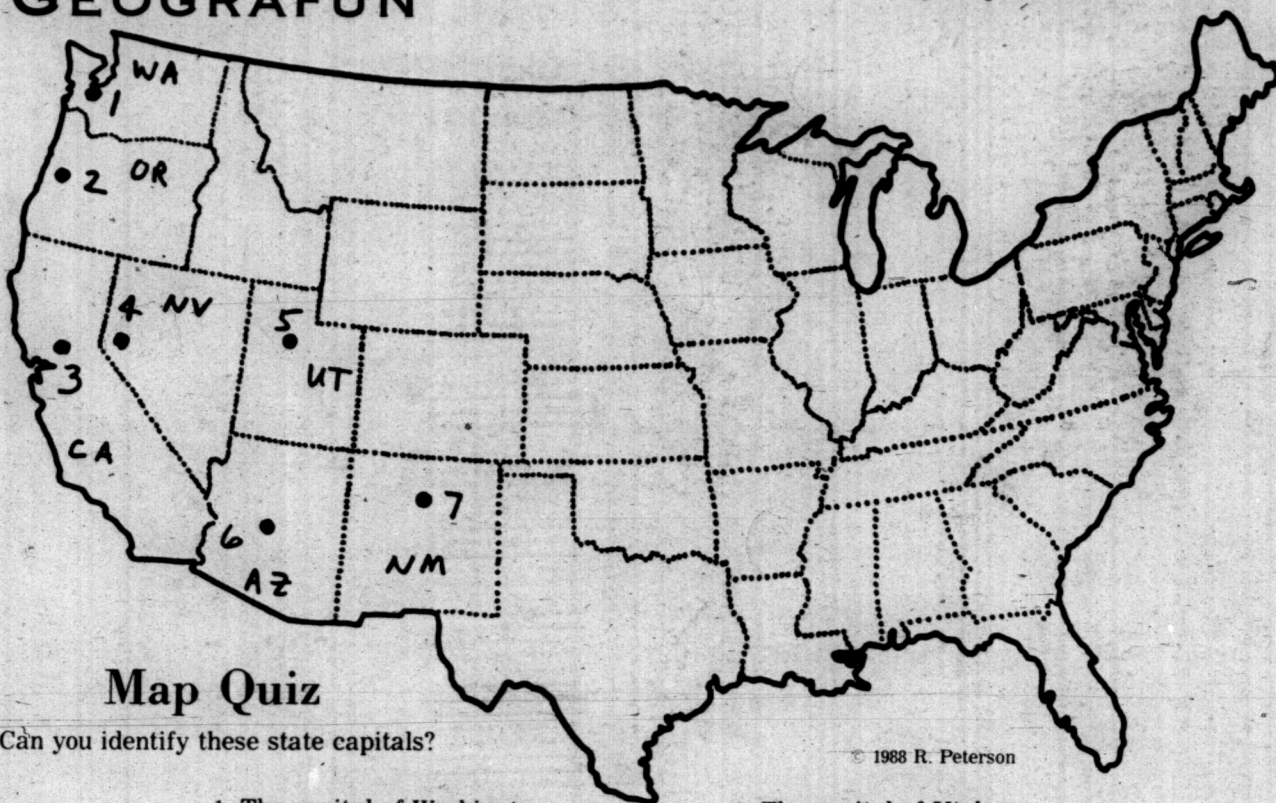
(To be continued)



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## GEOGRAFUN

By Ralph Peterson



### Map Quiz

Can you identify these state capitals?

1. The capital of Washington.
2. The capital of Oregon.
3. the capital of California.
4. The capital of Nevada.
5. The capital of Utah.
6. The capital of Arizona.
7. The capital of New Mexico.

#### Answers:

1. Olympia, WA 2. Salem, OR 3. Sacramento, CA 4. Carson City, NV 5. Salt Lake City, UT 6. Phoenix, AZ 7. Santa Fe, NM

Now starting with 1, connect the dots. Can you imagine that the connected dots look like a letter of the alphabet? (Can you think of a word starting with the letter to fill in the blank: These are all \_\_\_\_\_ states.)



### Children outline Noah's ark

The Children's Sunday School Department at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, on Oct. 30, 1988, outlined Noah's ark on the parking lot of the church (top photo). They were studying about the ark and wanted the church family to see the length — 450 feet; width — 75 feet; and height — 45 feet. They used ribbons to outline the dimensions and involved several church members in holding up the ribbon (bottom photo). Renee Walley is the children's coordinator. Bill Fuller is the pastor.

## A baton, a whistle, a ring, and a Bible

By Lucille W. Bailey

Of all the articles of authority you can think of today, I want to talk about four: a baton, a whistle, a ring, and a Bible.

1. A baton is used by a conductor to beat time. Batons are made in several sizes. They are made of wood, metal, or plastic. When the conductor of an orchestra or a drum major raises his baton, it shows authority, but only for those in the orchestra or the band.

2. Rings: Most rings are made of gold or other precious metals, with the most popular being the diamond. Rings are signs of authority. Kings have given their rings to trusted servants and that gives them the authority of the king. I am sure you remember Pharaoh gave his signet ring to Joseph when he set him over Egypt. By this ring all men would know that Joseph had the sovereign power of a king. The ring of the Pope is given him when he is crowned. It bears his name, a picture of St. Peter in a boat, and is sometimes called the "fisherman's ring." All the papers of the Pope must be signed with the ring. When the Pope dies, the ring is broken and a new ring is made for the next

Pope. However, if we are not a Pope and didn't live in Egypt, then the signet ring would not help us.

3. Whistle: A whistle is the means of showing authority. Consider the basketball referee, the school safety crossing man or woman, or the policeman handling a traffic jam. Until we become a policeman, a referee, or a safety person, then a whistle does not give us any authority.

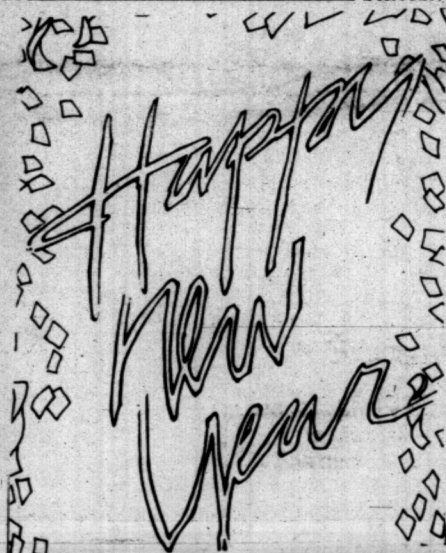
4. Bible: Now the Bible is different, because it applies to every man, woman, boy, or girl in the world. It was given on the authority of God, and Jesus has said he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Bible is a book we can depend on, and that is why we should read it, hide its words in our hearts, and share it with others. Let's begin to learn a verse every day. Today we will learn II Timothy 2:15: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God."

Lucille W. Bailey works in Children's Church at First Church, State Line.

### Jones County BSU dresses children at Christmas

Each year the Baptist Student Union at Jones County Junior College dresses children at Christmas and Easter. Thirteen children were secured this year through the migrant program in Jones County and came from three different grammar schools.

The BSU drama and puppet teams presented a program, involving 70 students, depicting the birth of Christ to the children. After the program refreshments were served and the opening up of presents took place.



### Puppeteers win first place

The Puppeteers of Westwood Church, Lauderdale Association, won first place, non-commercial, with their entry in the annual Meridian holiday parade. They received a plaque and a check for \$100. The directors of the Puppeteers are Mrs. Debra Stokes, Mrs. Sheila McAlister, and Mrs. Lynn Cooper. Scott Boardman is their sound man. Puppeteers are Kelly Lucas, Jennifer Jackson, Amanda Stokes, Shana Jackson, Susan Trawick, Jennifer Rose, David Hopkins, Kevin Jackson, Jonathan Hopkins, Bryan McAlister, and Josh Hopkins. W. Buford Ury is the pastor.

### Pen Pal Club

Anyone, ages 6 through 12, who wishes to meet a Pen Pal through the Baptist Record may do that by sending name, address, age, and name of church. Names will be listed monthly on the Children's Page.

Dear Baptist Record,  
Hi! My name is Michelle Beasley, and I would like to have a pen pal. I'm in the fifth grade. I'm ten years old. I have brown hair and brown eyes. My address is Rt. 5, Box 361, Waynesboro, MS 39367. I go to Chicora Baptist Church.

Sincerely,  
Michelle

**Baptist Record**

J 005-DTM BAPT HISTORICAL SD 00 1-05  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

989